

**A HISTORY  
OF  
LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN**

1953 – 2011

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

**Dedicated to Mrs. Marie Dansby Tudor**

## PROLOGUE

German speaking Lutherans from Alsace, Lorraine, and Hussia came ashore to Beaufort with the 1562 Huguenot expedition led by Captain Jean Ribaut. In a letter to Phillip II of Spain, Menendez confirmed the presence of Germans in Ribaut's second expedition. From the Port of St Augustine, October 15, 1565 he wrote:

"There came also with Jean Ribault, among these people, four Germans, relatives of the Prince of Orange, great Lutherans. I wished to ascertain" if there were any Catholics among them, but not one was found."

Menendez spared the lives of five men but had Jean Ribaut and all the rest put to the knife with the understanding that it was expedient for the service of God and his Majesty, Phillip II.

Almost two centuries later, diaries and records show that great Lutherans continued to pass through Beaufort and some established their homes here.

Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, passed through the local waterways on two voyages to the Salzburger settlement at Ebenezer, Georgia. On October 18, 1742, he and Pastor John Martin Boltzius were returning to Charleston from Ebenezer. Because the ebb tide was against them, they spent the night on their boat in the marsh. The next morning they went ashore for breakfast with a German shoemaker whom they knew. He gave them supplies for their trip. Mr. Lewis Jones, Chaplain of the Independent Company at Port Royal, had treated Muhlenberg kindly on his previous trip, but due to the tide, they did not have time to visit.

As Lutherans settled in Beaufort, they worshipped with fellow Christians at the established churches, primarily Carteret Street

Methodist, St. Helena's Episcopal, and Beaufort Baptist. A stroll through St. Helena's churchyard reveals many old German family names on tombstones.

Faithful Lutherans traveled to Savannah and Charleston for communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. In earlier times, this was done by boat on the inland creeks and rivers now known as the Intracoastal Waterway.

The Lutherans in Beaufort were cordially received and supported in their faith. From November 28, 1951 they met regularly in the evening at Carteret Street Methodist Church until they established a Sunday School and morning worship services in the original St Helena parish house on July 21, 1952. St John's Parish was formally organized with fifty-two confirmed members and twenty children on October 25, 1953. The Rev. John Satterwhite, who had worked with this group during his seminary years, was named missionary.

(Note: Leola Fanning compiled this history beginning with the Prologue through the years 1953 -1987. Betty Moore, Rosie Riddle and Marly Roper continued the history from 1988 - 2004. Linda Cole and Jane Griffith covered the years 2005 - 2011. Gloria Bockleman provided computer assistance.)

## **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN**

### **Beaufort, South Carolina**

The women of the church were organized June 2, 1953 at the home of Doris Rudder (Mrs. Harry E.). Lillian Tabor (Mrs. Guy F.) was elected president. A Thankoffering was received, and subscriptions to the Lutheran Women's Work magazine were taken. A picnic was planned for August at Palmetto Lodge, Sam's Point, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marie Tudor (Mrs. Herbert). A welcome party for Pastor and Mrs. John L. (Willette) Satterwhite was held at St. Helena's Parish House August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The first Christmas party was held at the home of Willar King (Mrs. John). Programs for the first year were entitled "Beginning With Me." The Women's Missionary Society was chartered February 15, 1954.

The women gave enormous service to the young parish. They cleaned the church, maintained the Altar Guild, the church nursery, and the choir robes. They visited the sick and provided for the USO by serving as hostesses and furnishing refreshments. They gave gifts to the servicemen at Christmas.

By 1964 the United Lutheran Church in America had merged with the Augustana, the Suomi and the American Evangelical Synods to become the Lutheran Church in America. The women's auxiliary was known as Lutheran Church Women. Caroline Peterson (Mrs. Edward G.), president, received the Charter in January, 1964.

During Mrs. Peterson's administration the new parsonage at 111 Stuart Towne Road, Spanish Point, was dedicated and became the home of Pastor and Mrs. Dermon L. (Helen) Sox. The LCW gave a beautiful reception at the Open House.

With the talent and devoted service of Marie Tudor (Mrs. Herbert), Chairman, the Chrismon project was undertaken. Regular workshops were conducted. Members brought bag lunches to enjoy, and from this project, warm, lasting friendships developed. During

the 1963 Christmas season, the congregation of St. John's enjoyed one of its finest hours when a Chrismon tree was given to the Glory of God to enhance the nave and the chancel.

At Christmas and Easter, the windows of the nave were beautifully adorned. There were candles and evergreens at Christmas. On Easter Sunday beautiful garden flowers were lovingly arranged and placed in memory or honor of loved ones. The church at these seasons was at its triumphant best.

During the 1960's, the Vietnam War raged on. Many families at St. John's were on active duty with the U.S. Marines and Navy. They enriched the parish life as they brought with them the strength of their faith and the energy of their souls.

The LCW activities have always centered on the needs of the times and fellowship among its members. The members made robes for the choir and confirmands. Other sewing projects provided sheets, gowns, aprons, booties, etc. for the Lowman Home, Children's Home (Salem, Virginia), Phoebe Hospital (Africa), Bay View Nursing Center (Beaufort), and the Vietnam children. Green Paraments were purchased by the LCW and the embroidery work was done by several members.

The 1970's showed an increase in retirees in Beaufort. The Prayer Group was organized in September of 1970. It was open to all denominations. Members included Lynn Schriver, Betty Moore, Helen Piper, Helen Stevens and Muriel Dickman. In 1971 the morning LCW group was started. The morning and evening groups continued with a focus on Bible study, church, and community service.

On February 7, 1971 a reception for Pastor and Mrs. Robert (Kay) Finckbiner was held at the Hall House. The community was invited to meet our new pastor.

In 1972 Lynn Shriver (Mrs. R.J.) introduced the "Secret Pal" custom

which remained a long time favorite among the ladies. At Christmas names were drawn. Throughout the year one received cards and special small kindnesses from her secret pal who revealed herself at the next Christmas meeting. The LCW gave a tea honoring the Rev. and Mrs. Boyd Cook on the occasion of his installation as missionary of Christ Lutheran Church on Hilton Head Island. The service and tea were held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The LCW prepared the parsonage for the arrival in 1972 of Pastor and Mrs. Olin (Claudia) Chassereau and their children - Warren, Miranda, and Scott.

Millie Taylor (Mrs. Jack), president 1973-75, had Christmas cards made with a scene of St. John's Christmas tree. A concert, rummage sale, and the first bazaar were held. Funds from these projects were used to outfit the kitchen of the new fellowship hall. Lucy Sox (Mrs. Thomas A.) was chairman of the kitchen committee which furnished the kitchen with commercial quality equipment for \$ 4,000. In 1973 St. John's celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Helen Hare (Mrs. Robert B.) was chairman of this lovely event.

In 1975 Melinda Ellis (Mrs. Clayton), president, organized a farewell dinner for the Chassereau family who were leaving St. John's parish for Orangeburg. During this year many events were held: a concert given by the musicians of the church, a progressive dinner, rummage sale, bazaar, and a tea for new members.

Pastor and Mrs. Ralph H. (Rosie) Riddle and Richard were welcomed as our new parsonage family in January of 1976. The LCW had an old fashioned pounding party for them. Gifts of food and staples for their pantry were brought for the occasion. Refreshments were served and fun was had by all.

Lucy Sox (Mrs. Thomas A.), president 1977-78, supervised many events for the church and the LCW. St John's was host church for the Amelia District LCW meeting in 1977.

In 1978 events such as a tasting supper honoring Senior Citizens,

mother-daughter banquet, lasagna supper, and coffees were held. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St John's was celebrated on October 22, 1978. The Rev. Ralph Riddle, Pastor, conducted the service. The Rev. John Satterwhite, first pastor, preached the sermon at which Holy Communion was celebrated. A covered dish luncheon was served on the cement slab foundation of the fellowship hall, which was under construction. The tables were decorated with fresh fruits and vegetables from the fall harvest. After the special anniversary service, a reception was held to honor the former pastors.

The new fellowship hall was dedicated on October 7, 1979. Dr. Herman Cauble, president of the South Carolina Synod, and Mrs. Cauble attended. The congregation enjoyed the fellowship and good food at the numerous events held in the building.

Lenten meals were introduced in 1979 by Betty Moore (Mrs. Wilson) and Laverne Greenleaf (Mrs. Roy) who furnished and prepared a light supper each Wednesday for two seasons. This custom continued with a sharing of food donations and preparations by the ladies. Contributions received were used for LCW projects. A Thanksgiving dinner was served on the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day and a Christmas dinner was served on the Sunday evening before the children's annual Christmas program.

Since the time of organization, Willar King (Mrs. John) lovingly prepared tea and buffet tables for special occasions with her exquisite linens and magnificent floral arrangements of roses from her garden.

Retreats were a focal point of the 1979-80 administration of Caroline Peterson (Mrs. Edward G.), president. Mrs. Bernice Shealy of Prosperity and Mrs. Evelyn Zeigler of Chapin conducted two overnight retreats. The first was held at a beach cottage on Hunting Island and the second at the home of Mrs. Tudor on Sam's Point, Lady's Island. At this time a pantry stocked with canned goods and nonperishables was maintained at the church for distribution to the



needy at the discretion of the pastor. The LCW replaced the communion linens with new ones.

During the 1981-82 administration of Laverne Greenleaf (Mrs. Roy), members made a car trip to Savannah to visit the Salzburger Museum at the Lutheran Church of the Ascension. Two members, Willar King and Moran Weiland (Mrs. Patrick), are descendants of the original Salzburger settlers. The women also visited Christ Episcopal Church where John Wesley was rector from 1736-37 and they saw landmarks which commemorate his life.

In 1982, the women oversaw that one corner of the fellowship hall was furnished as a comfortable sitting area for casual visiting and small meetings. Mrs. Tudor coordinated the colors and furniture.

Outreach in community service was emphasized in the 1983-84 administration of Lavonne Danitschek (Mrs. Carl). Homemade cookies were furnished to the local Red Cross Bloodmobile. Meals for an elderly couple were furnished for one month through the local Meals on Wheels program. Each member furnished a health kit (30) to take to the district LCW meeting for distribution to native Americans. The LCW gave \$300 to the Newberry College capital fund campaign designated as "Investment in Quality Education." LCW members from Christ Lutheran Church on Hilton Head Island met with St. John's to view the videotape, "Who We Are". A retreat on the book Death and Dying by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross was conducted by Mary Oppenheimer (Mrs. Joseph).

The LCW continued with outreach into the community in 1985 when Mary Oppenheimer served as president. St. John's was hostess for the World Day of Prayer and served a luncheon after the service. Literacy continued to be a focus. A workshop to recruit tutors was conducted by the director of the Beaufort County Literacy Program. The Altar Guild was formally organized with Norma Murdaugh (Mrs. Miles) serving as Educational Director.

In 1986 Miss Wilma Benton, president, maintained the heritage of St John's LCW and continued the traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and Lenten meals. From the Lenten meal contributions, gifts of \$ 100 each were made to the Ministry to the Deaf in Columbia and the Literacy program in Beaufort. They were matched by Lutheran Brotherhood on alternate years.

The LCW in 1987 found itself awaiting another church merger when we would be a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We were now known as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA). Meanwhile, members continued with Bible study, prayer, and offerings in a joyful spirit of love and service.

During 1988 many projects were completed by the women. Through the efforts of the sewing ministry, 70 bibs were made for the Lowman Home and the Chrismons were repaired. Mary Schmidt coordinated the efforts of our prayer line which included nineteen members. A group of ten ladies spent the day at the Lowman Home and carried with them Christmas gifts and collectible items for use in the crafts program.

Caroline Peterson designed a banner for St. John's WELCA in 1989. It was carried in the procession at the convention of the South Carolina WELCA in the Spring. The group hosted the WELCA Fall Cluster Gathering, served lunch, and arranged a tour of Beaufort.

In 1990 WELCA responded to an appeal from Lutheran World Relief to gather personal supplies for developing countries. Twenty-two health kits, five layettes and seven sewing kits were sent.

WELCA hosted a luncheon for the women of Christ Lutheran Church in Hilton Head in 1991. A new circle was formed which would meet on Saturday. The group sponsored a needy family for Christmas.

A Mother-Daughter Luncheon was held in 1992 and was enjoyed by all.

The parlor in the fellowship hall was refurbished in 1993 with the addition of a new rug, two wing chairs and a library. A birthday cake and a card were given to each resident of Bay View Nursing Center during the year.

Reverend Randy Conley, along with his wife, Debbie, and daughters, Erin and Allison, began his ministry at Saint John's in 1993.

In 1994 the women of St John's hosted the Low Country Cluster Luncheon. Norma Murdaugh led a group in making gowns for the preemies and crocheted blankets for the stillborn babies at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. A Mother-Daughter Tea was enjoyed.

WELCA helped with the Christmas wrapping for CAPA at Belks Department Store in 1995. The group sponsored two young women, Gloria Bockelman and Amy Johnson, as young women delegates to the state convention.

During 1996 the women continued to do many beautiful projects for the Lowman Home. They hosted the community's World Day of Prayer.

In 1997 WELCA provided cookies for the Festival of Trees at Christmas which benefits hospice. Mary Schmidt, "the littlest angel", continued to chair the Prayer Line Committee. A gift of \$180.00 was given to the youth group for their trip to New Orleans.

In 1998 Marie Tudor was given a Certificate of Appreciation by the Lowman Home in recognition of her continuing service and support of their ministry.

The next minister to serve Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was Pastor Louie F. Lanford, III. He and his wife, Susan came in 1999. Susan made mission trips to Tanzania and shared these experiences with our church women.

Doti Wilson, president, oversaw a busy 1999. A baby shower for the Pregnancy Crisis Center was held. A gift of \$783.15 was given to the

seminary for the "Build a Cottage Fund". Both WELCA groups studied the book of Proverbs using the book, God's Gift of Wisdom. Leola Fanning ably chaired WELCA's meals for bereaved families.

Marie Mounce served as president in 2000. In May, twenty-five women participated in a Mother's Day Service. The quilters continued to provide quilts for needy families. Sunshine cards were sent to the sick and shut-ins and the women kept an active Prayer Line. Doti Wilson presented an inspiring Christmas play, "Joseph's Unbelief". Actors were Marie Mounce, Peg Thomsen, Nila Schricker, Dotti Glace and Dorothy Zinser.

Marie Mounce continued as president of WELCA in 2001. The group was moved by a guest speaker from Hospice who described the many ways volunteers assist those struggling with the end of life. The women participated in the church's Stewardship Fair, displaying projects they sponsored. WELCA generously contributed over \$2,563.18 for the range purchased for the new 'Family Life Center' kitchen (the term used to refer to the initial phase of our current church on Lady's Island Drive where the first service was held 9-16-01, the first Sunday following the tragedy of 9-11-01). Thankoffering monies went to the ELCA International Disaster Response.

In 2002 with Susan Lanford as president, WELCA participated in the World Day of Prayer. A Mother-Daughter Tea and Fashion Show was a highlight of the year. WELCA held an appreciation reception following church on February 10th to honor Marie Tudor who devoted years of service to our church and WELCA. Betty Moore and Lynn Schriver were in charge of the April 14th Kitchen Shower for the new church.

During 2003 under the continued leadership of Susan Lanford, members of WELCA made numerous stuffed animals for children who visited the Emergency Room at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. Martha Christian spearheaded this group appropriately named,

'Martha's Animals'. Other WELCA sewers sent ten quilts to Lutheran World Relief and made lap robes and bibs for the local nursing homes and assisted living homes. The joint meeting of both groups was held in November with Chaplain Allen from Parris Island as guest speaker. The theme was "Red, White, and Blue---Women in the Military. One-half of the Thankoffering was given to The Carolina Neuromuscular ALS Center in Charlotte, NC in honor of Pastor Lou Lanford and the other half was given to Kim's Fund at Lake Wylie Lutheran Church in Fort Mill, SC. WELCA assisted with the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and held a Mother-Daughter "Wedding Without the Groom" Tea. They hosted the Amelia Conference Gathering where Susan Lanford led the program based on her mission trip to Tanzania.

Due to Pastor Lanford's resignation (12-03) in the face of his worsening ALS, Saint John's was without a minister for a period of time.

Under the 2004 joint-leadership of Dottie Glace and Sue Mannheim, WELCA enjoyed a May Day Program in which members and their guests shared memories of their baptism. Rev. Nancy Oliver of Charleston, South Carolina led WELCA Sunday on August, 29<sup>th</sup>. The November 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting theme, "Travel Through the Ages", was written and presented by Claria Gorgen who cleverly changed costume to portray five different women of the Bible. Norma Murdaugh chaired Infant Projects for Beaufort Memorial Hospital while Peg Thomsen handled WELCA's Sewing Projects.

Saint John's was fortunate to have the Rev. Dr. Edward L. Counts, retired from Charleston's historic Saint John's Lutheran Church, serve as our Interim Pastor from July 1, 2004 until October 30, 2005. Together with his wife, Donna, he played a vital role in unifying and strengthening our congregation.

During 2005, Susan Mannheim served as president and the women enjoyed another wonderful year of study and fellowship and

accomplished many projects. Miriam Circle was led by Jane Griffith and Lydia Circle by Marly Roper. Our Spring Joint Meeting was held on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the theme was "Honor Your Mother, Love a Child". With WELCA's focus on children, \$283.00 was donated for the children's altar paraments and \$250.00 to the Vacation Bible School. Another \$50.00 was given to the church's altar flower fund and \$184.59 was donated for an office binding machine. The Women's Service was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Kathy Chartier from the Bishop's office officiating and the Fall Joint Meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup> featured *The Belles of the Bible*, a drama by the women of Providence Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head. Vi Jensen headed the Sunshine Committee and Lucy Myers was in charge of the Prayer Line.

Officers for 2006 were: President, Peg Bamford; Vice President, Dottie Glace; Secretary, Claria Gorgen; and Treasurer, Marie Mounce. WELCA enjoyed an inspirational overnight retreat in May, *Women's Friendships*, conducted by Pastor Timothea Sharpe, (Lucy Myer's cousin), at the Ebenezer Retreat Center in Rincon, GA. Claria Gorgen prepared creative folders filled with pertinent materials for the participants who held a pajama party with enjoyable games and much laughter the first night of the retreat. The Monday sewing circle was busy, as was Martha's Animals and Infant Projects for the Beaufort Hospital. We gave monetary donations to the foster children program of Lutheran Family Services, and continued to provide food for receptions after funeral services, confirmation and other occasions.

On June 1, 2006, our congregation was delighted to welcome Rev. Patrick Shannon Mullen, his wife, Kami, and children, Justice and Corinne to Saint John's. The women of WELCA presented Pastor and Mrs. Mullen with an entryway rug as a housewarming gift.

Peg Bamford faithfully served as president during 2007. Another moving overnight retreat was held at Ebenezer Retreat Center with Rev. Karen Gibson who gave insight on the theme of Spirituality.

WELCA continued to administer St. John's Cradle roll for the Christian Education Committee and provided a gift for each newborn/baptized child. A contribution was also made to Family Promise, a program to serve the homeless which Pastor Mullen described at a joint meeting and hoped to introduce in Beaufort County. Since Pastor Mullen preferred to personally appoint people to arrange meals for our bereaved families, WELCA's Bereavement Committee was disbanded. The head nurse of pediatrics at Beaufort Memorial Hospital was the guest speaker at the Nov. Joint Meeting and expressed great thanks for the Infant Sewing Projects we supply. She shared these little garments are often used by families for the burials of their still-born babies.

In 2008, with Janet Cox as president, we continued to grow through our monthly Bible studies. Our local retreat was held in May at the British Pub on Cat Island and led by one of Saint John's spiritual leaders, Pastor Alice Klatt. Our November Joint Meeting featured Pastor Susan Ulmer of Carteret Methodist Church as our guest speaker. We again were busy with all of the WELCA sewing projects and continued to welcome all women who are members of Saint John's to become active participants.

The WELCA Board for 2009 : Janet Cox -President, Jane Griffith - Vice President, LaVerne Greenleaf - Treasurer and Marly Roper -Secretary. On March 6<sup>th</sup> we sponsored the World Day of Prayer program and on April 19<sup>th</sup> we had our "Women's Sunday Service" with Rev. Alice Klatt officiating. Peg Bamford and Helen Masters gave Temple Talks. Our Joint Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> featured Saint John's soon to be deployed Navy Chaplain, John Connelly, and his wife as our speakers. Donna Fulmer, VP of SC WELCA, who had recently visited Japan's Lutheran missionaries and churches, came dressed in a kimono. She presented an interesting slide show and displayed artifacts from her trip at our Nov. Joint Meeting. Janet Cox and Jane Griffith attended the SC WELCA convention in June while

LaVerne Greenleaf and Janet attended the fall Amelia Conference Gathering.

Saint John's embarked on having 3rd year Southern Seminary students serve as Vicars. Scott Hannon (8/08-09); Vicar Joyce Gulliford (8/09-10); and Rick Keyworth (8/10-11). This opportunity was both an enlightening learning experience for them as well as an uplifting and joyous time for our congregation. Vicars Scott and Joyce often taught Miriam Circle's Bible study lessons and provided comfort for our sick and shut-in WELCA members.

2010 was another busy year during which WELCA members enjoyed fellowship, Bible study, and service to others. Maryelyn Dancy and Jane Griffith served as co-presidents. Marly Roper continued as secretary and LaVerne Greenleaf also did so as treasurer. Sue Mannheim continued as Miriam Circle leader and Rosi Riddle became the Lydia Circle leader. Highlights of the year were the Women's Service where the many WELCA sewing projects were artistically displayed and blessed; a May half day retreat at Saint John's entitled, "The Power of Faith in Healing", led by Rev. Karen Gibson during which 85 Lutheran World Relief Health Kits were assembled; and the November Joint Meeting at which Martha Lawrence from CODA (citizens opposed to domestic violence) explained their program. A \$100 gift was presented to CODA along with articles for infants and children to be used in their local shelter. Our vibrant and faithful member, Helen Frisbie received WELCA's Honorary Lifetime Award on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Maryelyn and Jane, our co-presidents, attended WELCA's state convention in June and Lydia Minich, Claria Gorgen, and Jane Griffith attended the Amelia Conference Gathering in Walterboro in September.

Serving on the 2011 WELCA board again were co-presidents



Maryelyn Dancy and Jane Griffith as well as longtime Treasurer, LaVerne Greenleaf, and our faithful circle leaders were again Sue Mannheim as Miriam Circle's leader and Rosie Riddle as Lydia Circle leader. New to the board was Carol Smunk, Secretary. Both Bible study circles continued to meet for fellowship and study on the second Tuesday of each month except during the summer. Lydia Circle met in the evenings at member's homes. Mid-year Miriam Circle voted to hold their morning meetings at the church to enable several members to attend who found visiting member's homes a challenge when they had to climb steps. Additionally, Miriam Circle suffered the deaths of 3 vital members: Helen Frisbie, Vi Jensen, and Lucy Myers. Two major joint events were held by WELCA this year. The first was a tour of two of Beaufort's historic churches, the Parish Church of Saint Helena and the Beaufort Baptist Church, followed by a luncheon at Southern Graces Bistro at the Beaufort Inn on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-six church women attended. The second joint event was our hosting the Amelia Conference at St. John's on September 17<sup>th</sup> with 68 attendees from a variety of Lutheran churches. Our speaker was the Director of Family Promise which ministers to the homeless. Both events were well received and enjoyed by all. Mari-Ann Taylor and Rosie Riddle attended the WELCA State Convention in North Charleston and took a large number of Red Cross health kits which our members had assembled as well as our Thank Offering, regular offering and an additional one for the fall Triennial Gathering.

Since this year's nominating committee was unable to fill a viable slate of officers for 2012, we consulted with SC WELCA's President, Donna Fulmer, for guidance. Following thoughtful discussion, our WELCA board and general membership voted to deactivate as a congregational WELCA unit and to transition to Saint John's Lutheran Women. We will continue to be organized as Miriam and Lydia Circles for Bible study and fellowship with local mission work as our emphasis. The two sewing groups will continue to meet as

scheduled. One joint meeting will be held each year with Lydia and Miriam Circles alternating as hostess. Our SC WELCA President was notified of our decision by letter. Pastor S. Mullen was kept abreast of our discussions and supports our transitional plans.

## **ST JOHN'S WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY**

CHARTER MEMBERS

CHARTERED: FEBRUARY 15, 1954

Shirley Shinn	Gertrude Andrews
Marjorie Trammell	Viola Steinmeyer
Lillian D. Tabor	Willar King
Josie B. Randall	Irene Schimmel
Mildred Freeman	Willette Padget Satterwhite
Mary T. Walsh	Doris S. Rudder
Frances Biel	Eleanor M Boquet
Marie Tudor	Mrs. A. F. Queen

## **FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**

St. John's Lutheran Church, Beaufort South Carolina  
[Women's Missionary Society, Lutheran Church Women,  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

1954	Lillian Tabor
1955	Norma Murdaugh
1956-57	Marie Tudor
1958-59	Betty Colleran
1960-61	Grace Smith
1962-63	
1964-65	Caroline Peterson
1966-67	Marie Tudor
1968-69	Louise Lenhart
1970	Kay Wallace
1971	Helen Hare
1972-73	Leola Fanning
1974	Millie Taylor
1975	Melinda Ellis
1976	LaVerne Harris
1977-78	Lucy Sox
1979-80	Caroline Peterson
1981-82	LaVerne Greenleaf
1983-84	LaVonne Danitschek
1985	Mary Oppenheimer
1986	Wilma Benton
1987-88	Leola Fanning
1989	Co-Presidents: Mary Oppenheimer and Rosie Riddle
1990	Nila Schricker
1991	Debbi Corriher
1992	Millie Boyce
1993-94	Carol Dykeman
1995	Jane Moellenhoff
1995	Jane Moellenhoff

1996-97	Lynn Schriver
1998-99	Doti Wilson
2000-01	Marie Mounce
2002-03	Susan Lanford
2004	Co-Presidents: Sue Mannheim and Dottie Glace
2005	Sue Mannheim
2006	Peg Bamford
2007	Peg Bamford
2008	Janet Cox
2009	Janet Cox
2010	Co-Presidents: Jane Griffith and Maryelyn Dancy
2011	Co-Presidents: Jane Griffith and Maryelyn Dancy

## SUBJECTS STUDIED BY WOMEN OF ST JOHNS

- 1986 Ephesians
- 1988 Mark
- 1989 Morning: "World Encounter"  
Evening: "One Thousand Years"
- 1990 Women of the Bible
- 1991 Mission '90 Video Tapes: "What does it mean to be a Christian?"
- 1993 1000 Years of Christianity in Russia
- 1996 Jesus, The Messiah Among Us
- 1997 Why Me, Lord? Job: A Study of Faith and Hope
- 1998 Radiant Faith: A Study of Philippians
- 1999 Proverbs: God's Gift of Wisdom
- 2000 Miriam Circle: One God, Many Gods
- 2001 Lydia Circle: WELCA Web Page Selections
- 2002 Miriam Circle: The Beauty of Mentoring :Growing Through Change
- 2003 Miriam Circle: The Beauty of Mentoring :Growing Through Change
- 2004 Lydia Circle: Bright Red Sports Car  
Miriam Circle: A Woman's Journey through Ruth
- 2005 Lydia Circle: You and Me Lord  
Miriam Circle: Parables
- 2006 Lydia Circle: Deborah: Daring to be Different  
Miriam Circle: Find Yourself in the Psalms
- 2007 Lydia Circle: In Walks Jesus  
Miriam Circle: James: How Faith Works
- 2008 Lydia Circle: Beauty of Contentment  
Miriam Circle: A Woman of Joy (from 1,2, and 3 John)
- 2009 Lydia Circle: Defending Your Faith
- 2010 Lydia Circle: Defending Your Faith  
Miriam Circle: Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts
- 2011 Miriam Circle: Lutheran Women Study on Diversity

